



## **LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith  
joined together through Christ, offering meaning and  
hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.**

**10 Simmonsville Rd  
Bluffton, SC 29910**

**Sunday, December 28, 2025  
10:30am**

# LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10 Simmonsville Road  
Bluffton, SC 29910**

**Church Office: (843) 815-6570**

**E-Mail: [office@lowcountrypres.org](mailto:office@lowcountrypres.org)**

**Web Page: [www.lowcountrypres.org](http://www.lowcountrypres.org)**

***Office hours: Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:00pm;  
Friday: 8:30am-Noon***

## **STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer, Transitional Pastor: [daniel@lowcountrypres.org](mailto:daniel@lowcountrypres.org)

Rev. David Johnson, Associate Pastor: [revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org](mailto:revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org)

Office/Christy James: [office@lowcountrypres.org](mailto:office@lowcountrypres.org)

Dr. Robin Lind, Music Director: [rlind@lowcountrypres.org](mailto:rlind@lowcountrypres.org)

Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—[kball@olivet.edu](mailto:kball@olivet.edu)

## **The Session**

### **Class of 2025**

Jan Alpert  
(843- 837-2177)  
Kevin MacCarthy  
(609-462-3903)  
Pam Davis-Webb  
(607-215-2289)  
Dale Wilkes  
(207-299-6693)

### **Class of 2026**

Elaine Branda  
(843-816-2240)  
Anne Redlus  
(843-705-6373)

### **Class of 2027**

Sandy Iams  
(843-814-9078)  
Eugenia Johnston  
(770-540-9488)  
Michael Koch  
(434-738-7835)

**Celebration of Worship**  
**December 28, 2025 ~ 10:30am**

**Silent Meditation**

Carmelo E. Álvarez

The Jesus born in Bethlehem was a stranger, a marginalized person, an innocent victim who transformed suffering into joy. Let us rejoice in his coming, and pray and act for the justice and equality of God's reign.

**Prelude**

*We Three Kings*  
Karen Johnson, organist

arr. by Teresa Wilhelmi

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Daniel de Beer

**Call to Worship**

Sue Dasson

Leader: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**People: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

Leader: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

**People: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Leader: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**People: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

**\*Hymn #140**

*Once in Royal David's City*

**\*Invocation**

Rev. de Beer

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we do not love you as we should. We do not participate fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Response**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory* (v. 4)

**Hymn # 143**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Quoted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*,  
© 2001 by the Iona Community

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life.**

**Gloria Patri # 581**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

**Children's Moment**

Rev. de Beer

(Children may leave for Kids Space.)

**\*Hymn #147**

*The First Nowell* (vv. 1-4)

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:13–23 (pg. 2)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

**“... in uncertain times”**

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*It is no Secret*  
Dale Nordby, soloist

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**\*Hymn #132**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. by Teresa Wilhelmi

**\* Those who are able, please stand.**

**Welcome to worship.** All visitors are welcome to LPC where we seek to love and serve Christ. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering basket. Care for infants through 6 years old during worship is provided in the nursery. Activity bags for elementary age children are available in the Narthex.

**Infant Comforting Area** - Like many adults, some infants struggle to make it through the entire service. An area has been set aside outside the nursery with sound and a view into the sanctuary. You are welcome to visit the area if the need arises.

**Christmas Joy Offering** - Each year at this time, our church supports the PCUSA Joy Offering which honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Checks should be made payable to LPC with a notation "Joy Offering." Thank you for your support.

**The Church Office will be open Monday, December 29th, 8:30am to 4:00pm and then closed through January 2nd for the holidays.**

**Rev. Johnson is on vacation,** returning on January 2nd.

**Over the holidays if you have any pastoral emergency, please call Rev. de Beer, 309-221-4732.**

**Backpack Buddies** - We will be packing the food bags in the Red Cedar Elementary cafeteria beginning at 3:00pm on Wednesday, January 6th. Please contact Sandy at [sbenninger@sc.rr.com](mailto:sbenninger@sc.rr.com) or 248-756-6666 if you plan to volunteer. Remaining packing dates are, March 3rd, and May 5th.

*Please remember with your prayers:*  
**Anne Ehrhart   Dennis Eubanks   Jerri Hanna**  
**Bud Woodard   Lila Wright**

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God, given by Nancy Doran and Sue Taylor-Belli in memory of Jim Doran and Ron Taylor.**

**“The Sermon On The Mount” Bible Study** has concluded for this year. It will reconvene Tuesdays at 2:15pm beginning January 13th. Recordings of previous classes are available on the website under Faith Formation.

**Adult Sunday Class** will resume January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in the parlor.

**Children’s Sunday School** will return in January on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**Presbyterian Giving Catalog** - The Causes to support are: Provide Clean Water, End Hunger, Sustain Communities and Support Education. Under each of these causes are a variety of gifts that you can select. There will be a table in the Narthex through December 28th to accept your selections and donations or answer any questions that you may have. Gift note cards are available to acknowledge a gift that you bought for someone. Orders and checks can also be placed in the offering basket, mailed to the church or turned into the office. Checks should be made out to LPC. Last year, members of the church donated \$3,868 to this program.

**Thank you from Agape.**

Wow!! Another great year of serving Jasper County SC to ensure food insecurity is addressed with passion and dignity during 2 of our annual events-- "Feed the Hungry" November 15th food distribution impact: more than 800 individuals; December 6th food distribution impact: more than 400 individuals, along with holiday gifts/toys, household items, and gift cards for children. Our champion supporter: Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, your support is paramount and we can't thank you enough. So many children and families walked away with huge smiles, knowing someone thought of them during this season to provide holiday gift cards and for including a healthy bag of oranges for each family.

Dr. Ponchitta Young, Executive Director

**The next book club meeting will be Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.** We will be discussing *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Theo of Golden is a beautiful story about the power of creative generosity and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness. We hope you will join us.

**A Hospitality Volunteer Sheet** has been posted for January 4 - March 8. Please sign-up to host the after worship coffee hour.

**Each Sunday the hospitality hosts** would appreciate donations of extra goodies as providing for 150 people is a big job. Please help either by baking or buying. 24 servings. It would be greatly appreciated. To schedule a specific Sunday, contact: Carol Hissom at 724-255-2949 or email [600carol@gmail.com](mailto:600carol@gmail.com)

**Men of Purpose (MOP)** will reconvene on Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00am. Please contact Bill Walker –[kamwheeling@gmail.com](mailto:kamwheeling@gmail.com) with questions.

**The Sunday Memorial Flower** sign-up sheets for 2026 are posted in the Narthex. If you would like to donate one of the weekly flower arrangements, please fill in that date on the chart.

### **Pastor Nominating Committee**

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the nomination process for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Your prayerful engagement reflects our shared commitment to the life and mission of this congregation. The Session has now completed its discernment and a slate of PNC candidates will be presented to the congregation on 1/25/26 for approval. In making these selections, Session sought to ensure a balanced representation of our church family—diverse in age, gender, experience, and perspectives—so that the committee might faithfully and effectively seek and clarify God’s call for our next pastor. We are deeply grateful to all who submitted nominations or who self-nominated. Your openness to serve is a gift and a testimony to the strength and vitality of this congregation. While not everyone could be included on the PNC, please know that your willingness remains valued and that there will be many other ways to contribute to this important season of transition. The PNC will need the ongoing prayers, encouragement, and support of the entire congregation as they begin their work. Together, let us continue to trust in God’s leading, confident that the Holy Spirit is already preparing both our hearts and the heart of the pastor who will be called to serve among us.

LPC Session

**Pastoral Search Process and Timetable** - The preliminary listening to the story of LPC is more or less completed. We invite people to continue telling stories, as we pick up many jewels as we go along. The Mission Study Writing Team, Sandy Iams, Alane Peragallo and Jan Alpert, is busy putting finishing touches to the Mission Study, after which it will be presented to the Session for approval before going to the Commission on Ministry of the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. A Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be elected at our congregational meeting in January. The PNC will begin their important work of finding our next senior pastor as soon as possible after initial training by the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. We ask for your prayers for the nominated candidates to the PNC.

**Thank you to everyone who submitted their pledge during our 2026 Stewardship program.** Your donations throughout 2026 will support our church operations and our outstanding programs to share our love and Gods message with our Low Country neighbors. If you forgot to submit your pledge, there is still time. You can send it to the church office or simply place it in the collection plate. Your Finance Ministry

**Monthly giving envelopes** are available in the Narthex. As an alternative to writing checks, automatic giving is available on the church website. The sign up is easy and you control the amounts and withdrawal dates using either a checking account or a credit card.